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09/991,070

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 2, 3, 5, and 22-32 without prejudice; amended claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 16. Claims 6, 7, 10, 12-15, and 17-21 remain in the application without amendment.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indicated allowability of claims 5-7, 16, and 17 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and intervening claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, independent claim 1 as rewritten should be allowed in the next Office Action.

Applicant has amended claims 4, 8, 9, and 11 to depend from claim 1 for proper dependency.

Furthermore, dependent claims 4, 8-15, and 18-21 should be allowed in the next Office action at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1 as rewritten.

Applicant has rewritten dependent claim 16 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 12-15.

Accordingly, claim 16 as rewritten should be allowed in the next Office action. Also, claim 17 should be allowed in the next Office action at least by virtue of its dependency on independent claim 16 as rewritten.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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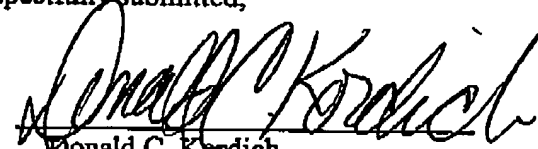
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If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of the response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 31, 2004
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By:



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